

HB 595 continued

Legislature's permission to sue the state. This is not only a waste of time but is also grossly unfair to contractors, since the state has the right to sue on a contract at any time.

HB 635 Uribe

- DIGEST: This bill requires the Board of Health to appoint a lay midwifery board which would establish qualifications for lay midwifery training instructors, issue a training manual, and issue a final examination for the course. Persons taking this course and passing the final exam would receive a letter of completion.
- REASONS FOR VETO: The bill had "noble purposes," but it was questionable whether the "public would be protected one bit." All the bill would do is allow some midwives to pass themselves off as professionals. State recognition of midwifery would give credibility to a group that may or may not have credibility. The public would have no way of knowing whether midwives were state-sanctioned because the procedure was "voluntary."
- REACTION: Representative Uribe was "surprised and disappointed" about the veto. He said it shows the Governor is insensitive and misinformed about the health care needs of the citizens of this state, especially those who cannot afford expensive health care.

The author said that the veto message "shows that he did not read the bill." The bill would not have given state sanctioning to lay midwives; the disclosure requirements would guarantee that the public was informed. Finally, not all parts of the bill were optional; some, like the restrictions on what midwives could do and what they had to disclose to their patients, were mandatory.

Representative Uribe also criticized the way the Governor handled the veto. The Governor never called to say he had any problems with the bill; if he had, the misunderstandings could have been corrected. The Governor did not even have the courtesy to tell the author that he had vetoed the bill; Representative Uribe found out two days later. The Governor handled the whole situation poorly.